

REMARKS

Declaration:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging and accepting the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, submitted on January 30, 2003.

With regard to claim 8, Applicant notes that the Form PTO-326, Office Action Summary, indicates that claim 8 is still pending in the present application. However, Applicant also notes that the Examiner has acknowledged the cancellation of claim 8 on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant merely wishes to ensure that the record is clear and that claim 8 is cancelled from the above application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for indicating that although claims 2, 3, 11 and 12 have been objected to, these claims would be allowable if written in independent form. Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that even though claims 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, these claims would also be allowable if written in independent form.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-18 are all the claims that have been examined in the application, and currently claims 1, 5-7, 9-10 and 13-18 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection - Claims 17 and 18:

Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. As shown in the "Claims" section of the present amendment, claim 18 has been cancelled and

claim 17 has been amended to be in independent form. Applicant submits that claim 17 is essentially a combination of original claims 1, 17 and 18. Because of this combination, Applicant submits that claim 17, and all of its respective dependent claims, are now in allowable condition.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1 and 13-16:

Claims 1 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by British Patent Specification No. 1,000,113 to Powell. However, as shown in the "Claims" section, claims 1 and 16 have been cancelled and claims 13-15 depend on claim 17, which Applicant submits is allowable, as indicated by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 5 and 6:

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell in view of Japanese Document No. 52-75702 to Miyoshi et al. Applicant submits that because these claims now also depend from claim 17, these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claim 7:

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell in view of admissions made in the Amendment filed on May 29, 2002. Applicant submits that because this claim now also depend from claim 17, claim 7 is also allowable, at least by reason of its dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 9 and 10:

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell in view of Ochiai (previously applied). Applicant submits that because these claims now

also depend from claim 17, these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

New Claims:

As shown in the claims section, Applicant has added new claims 19-24. Applicant submits that claim 19 is allowable, at least by reason of its dependence on claim 17, and claims 20-24 are allowable for similar reasons as claim 17.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

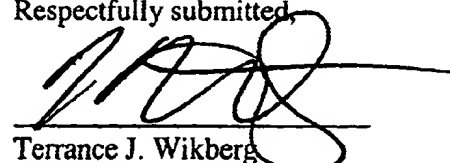
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,



Terrance J. Wikberg
Registration No. 47,177

Date: July 24, 2003